

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**24 October 2010**  
10 o'clock in the morning





Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church. Our Stewardship theme this morning is focused on prayer. May this hour put you in touch with the deepest parts of your being as you share them with God and may you be open to what God has to say to you and through you. In the words of Alexis Carrel:

*“...one prays as one loves, with one’s whole being.”*

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

Adagio (*from Symphonie improvisée*)

*Mark Swicegood, organ  
Pierre Cochereau*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

#### **MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITY**

*Shona Quinn*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 15*

#### **OPENING PRAYER** (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, from whom every good prayer comes, and who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace, keep us as we worship, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with kindled affections and steadfast thoughts we may worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the simplicity of this worship hour,  
we confess our attachment to complex schemes  
and endless calculations which give the illusion that we control,  
O God of Caring.

In the silence of personal self-reflection,  
we confess our absorption in the hectic hum of busyness  
which helps us to feel that we are doing something,  
O God of Active Love.

In the soaring moment of inward renewal,  
we confess our fascination with things external to our  
true identity which divert our energies from authentic centering,  
O God of Bestowal.

Forgive us  
in this time of inner assessment  
for all those moods and movements in our soul which separate  
us from you and your Spirit-filled presence in our lives,  
for we would be restored this day to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray  
together, saying...

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### ‡Congregational Response

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Olivia Hartwell*

### Psalm 65

Praise is due to you,  
O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
O you who answer prayer!  
To you all flesh shall come.  
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.  
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.  
By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.  
You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.  
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout  
for joy.

You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.  
You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,

and blessing its growth.  
You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

*The Youth Choir*  
*John Rutter*

SECOND LESSON

*Olga Hartwell*

Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

\*‡HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

*New Century (black) Hymnal 290*

*As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group. It is not necessary for parents to accompany their*

*children to the classroom because there are many Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.*

**SERMON**      *Praying with a Bent Spirit*      *Dr. David D. Young*  
*(Second in a Stewardship Series: "Getting It Right")*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

**\*A PERSONAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**      *Mike Russell*

**\*Gloria**      *New Century (black) Hymnal 754*  
*Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:*  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**      *The Chancel Choir*  
Cantique de Jean Racine      *Gabriel Fauré*

Verbe égal au Très-Haut, Notre unique espérance,  
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,  
nous rompons le silence,  
Divin Sauveur jette sur nous les yeux.  
Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante,  
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix,  
Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante,  
qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois!  
Ô Christ sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle  
Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé,  
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immortelle  
Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé!

English translation:  
O Word of the Almighty, our sole hope

And the shining light of earth and sky,  
We break the silence.  
O Savior Divine; look upon us,  
Spread over us the fire of your powerful grace.  
May all hell flee at the sound of your voice.  
Lift away the sleepiness of a languid soul  
Which leads it to forget your laws.  
O Christ, be favorable to this faithful people,  
Which is now gathered to bless you.  
Accept the songs they offer to your immortal glory.  
May they return your gifts a hundred-fold.

**\*Doxology** *New Century (black) Hymnal 776*  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 335*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger people*

*People: Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, but for powers equal to your tasks.*

*Leader: Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle.*

*People: Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.*

*Phillips Brooks*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

## POSTLUDE

Scherzo Symphonique

*Pierre Cochereau*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of Lillian and Edmund Hoffman by their families.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

## *Calendar*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

In Church School classes today, our children will continue learning about David. This week the lesson focuses on God's promise to David to be with his family through all generations. Perhaps parents can be the ones to tell your children that Jesus was a member of David's family! Please note that our 5th graders will be visiting Pilgrim Towers today after Church School and some of our 7th graders will join them since they have been there several times before.

#### **Parish Nurse**

Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203, after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

### **Flu Vaccine Clinic 11:00-11:45 am in Room 203**

The Wellness Committee will be offering season flu vaccines (this year's formula includes H1N1). Vaccines will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis to people 18 years of age or older who bring payment of \$30 cash or check (made out to FCCOG). We are unable to bill insurances, but we will happily provide a receipt. Individuals under 18, should see their primary physician for the vaccine.

### **Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?**

Our next New Member class will be held today at 11:15 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. (Child care will be provided.) During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our Congregational denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Please feel welcome to join us. We will receive new members on Sunday, November 7 during the 10 am worship service.

### **Mission Team Fair**

Mission Teams give church members the opportunity to grow spiritually while serving God in the community. From a mission project in Guatemala to working with animals through pet therapy, there are many ways to get involved. Visit us during Coffee Hour to find out more details and to sign up.

### **Women's Fellowship Annual Bulb Sale**

The sale and pick-up of your ordered bulbs will be today during Coffee Hour until 1:00 pm. We'll have extras too! We have a lovely selection for your family to have fun planting for beautiful blooms from April through June. Amaryllis and Paper Whites bulbs to plant indoors will be available. Children love to watch them grow! Come see us at Coffee Hour!

### **Greeters Needed!**

If you can smile and say "Good morning" we need you to help us

welcome everyone to worship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up to help at coffee hour. You'll be contacted by email with available dates. Please help. You'll be glad you did!

### Youth Ministry

Join us tonight for our Y! programs. Fellowship for those in grades 6-8 (JPF) is from 5:00-6:00 pm and grades 9-12 (SPF) meets from 7:00-8:00 pm.

### Youth Choir

There will be no Youth Choir rehearsal today.

### Bible Study

Bible Study will begin at 11:30 today.

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## NEXT WEEK

### Eat Pray Laugh

*You are cordially invited: Women's Fellowship One-Day Escape Saturday, October 30, 8:30 a.m.-3:00p.m.*

#### Keynote Speaker:

**Rudy Wilson Galdonick** (author): Motivational address, *Faith with Humor* (book available)

#### On the Menu:

- **Peoples' Bank experts, Angela DeLeon, Leslie McCabe:** *Avoiding Scams and Frauds*
- **Jeff Kahn** (noted lecturer at colleges, women's groups and corporations): Practical effective techniques in real life situations; Strategies for rape prevention for women of all ages; Concepts that could save your life.
- **Reverend Dan England:** *What Some Women in the Bible Have to Say to Women, Well, Not in the Bible*
- **Sue Asselin:** Hands- on, *The Art of Huck Towel Embroidery*
- **Loretta Stagen Floral Design:** Workshop to create Thanksgiving vegetable centerpieces
- **Nancy Ryan** (registered dietitian, nutritionist, consultant, author): *Fueling the Fabulous Female*

Breakfast and lunch catered by Aux Delices - \$30.00 all inclusive. Reservations are a MUST. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship, Att: Joyce Nye and send or leave at church office by Monday, October 25. We regret we cannot accommodate walk-ins or reservations without payment.

### **Welcoming Reception for Craig Symons**

The Music Committee is holding a welcoming reception for Craig Symons, our new Music Director, on Saturday, October 30 between 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the auditorium. Please plan to join us.

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## **NEWS AND NOTICES**

### **Annual Preschool Photo Fundraiser**

Still looking for the perfect holiday card photo? Sign up today for the Annual First Congregational Church Preschool Photo Fundraising Event in beautiful Binney Park. Only two dates left. 20 minute sessions are available with Greenwich photographer, Joseph Budzelek ([www.josephbudzelekphotography.com](http://www.josephbudzelekphotography.com)). Approximately 10-20 proofs per family, reasonable prices, convenient ordering and quick turnaround time. Final dates are:

- **Today, Sunday, October 24**
- **Saturday, October 30**

Signup sheets are available in the vestibule outside the preschool entrance. Please leave \$85 check payable to First Congregational Church Preschool in the marked box outside Libby White's office to hold your time slot.

(All proceeds of the \$85 sitting fee go directly to the preschool!)

Please call Dianne Shrier with questions at 203-698-8823.

Thank you for your continued support!

### **Welcoming Reception for Susan Murtha**

Join us for an Open House welcoming Susan Murtha to the First Congregational Church on Saturday, November 6 between 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the auditorium.

## **Wonderful Wednesday - November 10**

Be sure to join us at our next *Wonderful Wednesday* on November 10. More details to follow. It will be another “wonderful” time!

## **Literacy Mission Team**

*“Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43-19*

Are you interested in making a difference in someone’s life? The Friends of the Byram Shubert Library need volunteers to meet one-on-one with an English as a Second Language member of our community. You will meet once a week for 45 minutes and spend time talking, reading, and dealing with language problems together. The time and day is up to you! If interested, please contact Mary-Ann Assing at 203-532-0082 or mazalman@aol.com.

## **Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte**

**All are welcome!** Improve your balance, health and well-being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 8 am and Thursdays at 9 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month and \$8 per class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

## **Book Discussion Group**

Hats Off!, the popular women’s book discussion group, meets every Thursday from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the church lounge. All are welcome. For details, call Marcia Livingston at 203-625-0772.

## **Rummage Room News**

**Halloween:** Considered the “Best Little Costume Shop in Old Greenwich” the Rummage Room has everything you need for Halloween. When you come in to find costumes and decorations for Halloween, remember that the Rummage Room needs your surplus of costumes and decorations so that the shop may continue to be well stocked. Bring your little goblins to view the wonderful Halloween windows...it is sure to put them in the mood for “trick or treat night.”

### **Wish List for October:**

- Halloween items
- Handbags
- Shoes
- clean usable clothing for adults and children
- bric-a-brac
- strollers
- bikes for adults and children.

**Rummage Room Mission Statement:** All proceeds go to Women and Children's Organizations locally, nationally and internationally to help support their many needs. Thank you for your continuing support with your donations, your purchases and your volunteerism. Consider them your gifts to the Lord. Please call Maria Drieghe, manager, to volunteer: 203-637-1875.

## Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need at Neighbor to Neighbor:

Cereal  
Oatmeal  
Pasta Sauce  
Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)  
100% Juice  
Canned Tomatoes  
Peanut Butter (No larger than 28 oz., please)  
Jelly



# *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Interim Director of Music: Mark Swicegood

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell